

Nebraska Library Commission Report – August 2019

- **Library Innovation Studios Project**

The Cycle 5 group of Library Innovation Studios participants received their initial training at the Nebraska Library Commission offices in Lincoln on May 22 and 23. Installation of the equipment and local training has been done at all of the libraries: Beatrice, Hastings, Chadron, Laurel/Plainview/Verdigre (mini studios). Each library also received a \$1,000 Internship Grant from the NLC to secure an intern specifically to work with their makerspaces. Libraries for the final five slots, joining Nebraska City, Blue Hill, and Grant for Cycles 6 and 7, have been selected:

- Nelson Public Library (Mini Studio—paired with Blue Hill)
- Lied Pierce Public Library
- La Vista Public Library
- McCook Public Library
- Superior Public Library

The Annual Maker Showcase will be held at the Nebraska State Fair in Grand Island on Sunday, August 25. The team is in the planning process for this event, but we will be inviting all grant libraries to attend. Those that have had the equipment already will bring examples of what has been made at their libraries and upcoming libraries can learn more about the project. We will have much of the equipment on site to demo.

Last month, the IMLS offered the Library Commission a one-year extension for the Library Innovation Studio project with an additional \$165,000 in funding. The additional funding would offer an opportunity to include additional libraries in the project, as well as a continuation of salaries and benefits for NLC and UNL, equipment replacement and repair, travel expenses, supplies and consumables. JoAnn has submitted the application and supporting documents.

- **State Budget**

The legislature enacted appropriations in May for the 2019-2021 state biennium budget. The governor signed the appropriations bills. Funding for the Library Commission remained the same as the legislature's appropriations committee's preliminary budget numbers and those included in the committee's recommendations to the legislature. The biennium budget includes a \$5,467 increase for regional library systems over current fiscal year funding for FY 2020 and \$11,043 for FY 2021 for regional library systems. The increase will be divided equally among the four regions. The Library Commission's budget request for regional library systems included a state funds increase of \$16,500 for FY 2020 and \$33,400 for FY 2021 (amounts over current fiscal year funding).

- **LSTA Funding and Legislation**

The U.S. House of Representatives included in its appropriations legislation an increase in funding for the Library Services and Technology Act Grants to States program. This amount would allow

for an increase in each state's base grant amount from the current \$680,000 to \$1 million. The Senate has not yet acted on the FY 2020 federal budget. Any differences in appropriations would be worked out through reconciliation. The outcome on the federal budget is uncertain and may not be resolved until later this summer or fall.

- **Libraries and Flooding**

After the spring flooding, the NLC and the Regional Library Systems contacted all of the public, school, and academic libraries and the response has been very positive. We heard from 112 public libraries, 134 school libraries, and 19 academics. We have heard that minimal damage has been reported in the libraries in affected areas; some wet carpet, damaged baseboards, and a few flooded basements. The Alliance public library had damage to ceiling tiles, walls, and carpet due to snow melt. We have updated the flood resources on our website at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/libman/preservation.aspx>

Library Commission staff participated in conference calls arranged by the Heritage Emergency National Task Force (FEMA / DHS) to inform and discuss flood damage recovery efforts related to libraries, museums, arts, parks, and other cultural places. As a follow-up, the Smithsonian Institution had interns make calls to determine needs.

Arts/culture organizations contemplating applying for public assistance should contact NEMA-PA at nema.publicassistance@nebraska.gov. The Request for Public Assistance (RPA) deadline was extended from 04/20 to 05/20 (granted on 04/07/2019). After May 20, the State and FEMA are not obligated to process applications.

Unfortunately, there are library workers that have homes and other personal property damaged from flood water. There may also be checked out library materials damaged or lost due to flooding. If you are helping residents find information on disaster recovery, we have compiled this page of resources on NebraskAccess: <http://nebraskaccess.nebraska.gov/emergency.asp>

Some in Nebraska and elsewhere have been eager to contribute to libraries to replace damaged library property. Few libraries reported damage. Those that did avoided extensive damage. The Library Commission received an offer from the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) to provide reimbursement of up to \$20,000 to purchase personal finance publications - ebooks and audiobooks. Devra Dragos has been working on that project.

Last month there was more flooding across the state due to heavy rainfall. So far we have heard that Kearney Public Library closed their computer lab and Makerspace, and postponed some Summer Reading programming, due to flooding in the basement.

- **Nebraska Public Library Accreditation – 2019**

The 2019 Accreditation Application process opened July 1: <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/LibAccred/>. There are 65 libraries up for reaccreditation. In addition, 47 unaccredited libraries who have completed their Public Library Survey are also eligible to apply:

- Central Plains Library System – Reaccred: 12, Unaccred: 21
- Southeast Library System – Reaccred: 18, Unaccred: 12
- Three Rivers Library System – Reaccred: 24, Unaccred: 6
- Western Library System – Reaccred: 11, Unaccred: 8

So far, 4 libraries have already earned their Re-Accreditation:

- Alliance Public Library – Silver level
- Atkinson Public Library - Gold level
- John Rogers Memorial Library in Dodge - Silver level
- Neligh Public Library – Gold level

For questions on the Accreditation process, please contact Christa Porter at the Commission: christa.porter@nebraska.gov, 800-307-2665

• **Library Commission Personnel News**

Shoshana Patocka has been hired as the NLC's new Cataloging Librarian. She comes to us from the University of Nebraska at Kearney where she has been working in the Technical Services department for the past four and a half years. Her first day at the Commission was April 8.

Scott Scholz has accepted appointment to manage the Lincoln City Libraries Polley Music Library. His last day at the Commission was June 7.

Gabe Kramer is the Commission's new Talking Book and Braille Service Director. Gabe moved into the TBBS Director position on June 18 from his TBBS Studio Manager position.

Jan Jolliffe resigned as Western Library System director to move to Denver. Her last day was July 12. Kathy Terrell has agreed to serve, once again, as WLS interim director beginning July 15.

• **E-rate Funding Year 2019**

USAC has released the first 14 Waves of Funding Commitment Decision Letters (FCDLs) for E-rate Funding Year 2019. As of Wave 14, released on July 25, 53 Nebraska public libraries have been funded for a total of \$180,734.96 in discounts. A list of libraries who have received E-rate funding is on the NLC E-rate webpage at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/erate/>. The list will be updated as new funding waves are announced.

• **Save the Date for Fall Book Celebrations**

Nebraska books and writers will be featured and celebrated at two events in Lincoln, so save the dates for the Nebraska Book Festival on September 7 at the University of Nebraska City Campus Union and the Celebration of Nebraska Books on November 9 at the Nebraska History Museum. These two events will highlight work by Nebraska writers and publishers, featuring stories and poetry set in Nebraska. The winners of the 2019 Nebraska Book Awards will be presented at the Celebration of Nebraska Books.

- **NCompass Live Schedule**

For more detailed information and registration go to <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/NCompassLive/>

- Aug. 7 - Life in Fort Schuyler: The Challenges Faced at the SUNY Maritime College Library
- Aug. 14 - Pretty Sweet Tech - Building a Clean, User-Friendly Library Website
- Aug. 21 - Research - the Key to Library Design
- Aug. 28 – Eliminating Late Fines is a Win-Win for Your Library and Community

- **Basic Skills 2019 Schedule**

One of the requirements for Public Librarian Certification

(<http://nlc.nebraska.gov/CE/libcert.aspx>) is training in the basic skills of librarianship. This requirement may be fulfilled by completion of formal education in an institution of higher learning or completion of approved continuing education or certification courses, including the Nebraska Library Basic Skills Training Courses.

Basic Skills training is presented as a series of online asynchronous courses through NCampus. Basic Skills participants are required to complete at least thirteen modules - six requisite modules and seven electives. These must be completed during the provisional (first) three-year certification period. For each course successfully completed, participants will earn 2 CE credits. These count toward the 45 CE credits that all participants must earn during each three-year recertification period.

Class	Start Date	Instructor
Communication	1/1 - 1/31	Self-paced
Customer Service	2/11 - 2/22	Christa
Library Governance	3/4 - 3/15	Denise
Library Technology	3/18 - 3/29	Amanda
Organization of Materials	4/1 - 4/30	Self-paced
Readers' Advisory	4/22 - 5/3	Sharon
Intellectual Freedom/Core Values	5/13 - 5/24	Sally
Library Finance	6/10 - 6/21	Scott
Reference	7/8 - 7/19	Christa
Library Policy	7/29 - 8/9	Sharon
Collection Management	8/19 - 8/30	Denise
Program & Outreach	9/9 - 9/20	Christa
Community & Library	10/7 - 10/18	Sam
Management/Supervision	10/21 - 11/1	Scott
Leadership	11/4 - 11/15	Holli
Library Service to Children & Teens	12/2 - 12/13	Sally